(e) whether any representations have also been received from tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh to increase Export of Tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee on Long Term Strategy for FCV Tobacco constituted by the Government identified markets like France, Portugal, Spain, Australia, Tunisia, Morocco, Philippines, Indonesia, Poland, Hungary, Vietnam, Bulgaria, Egypt, Algeria and Iraq as new and possible potential markets for Indian virginia tobacco.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Tobacco Institute of India, a body of cigarette manufacturers, has suggested that stability in rates and structure of duties should be maintained for 4 to 5 years which would encourage investment in R&D and product quality improvement. According to the Institute such a step would enhance exports of tobacco and cigarettes from the present level of Rs. 500 crores (175 million US $) in 1992-93 to Rs. 3000 crores (about 1000 million US $) by 1997-98.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Simplification of Procedure for Deep sea Fishing Vessels

525. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishing vessels based in Visakhapatnam who have applied for diesel oil subsidy this fishing season;

(b) what steps are being taken to simplify the procedures by the M.P.E.D.A.; and

(c) what steps are being taken by MPEDA to encourage full utilisation of export oriented deep-sea fishing vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) During the current financial year so far 17 companies based at Vizag have applied for availing assistance for 40 vessels under High Speed Diesel Oil Price Reimbursement Scheme.

(b) The Scheme is functioning smoothly. However MPEDA has an open mind and will certainly consider any suggestions which may come to further streamline the procedures within the parameters of the Scheme.

(c) To encourage full utilisation of deep sea fishing vessels, MPEDA encourages modification of vessels for diversified fishing. The subsidy assistance for modification of vessels for diversified fishing as available is:

(a) 30% of cost of conversion of the vessel subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs per vessel.

(b) 30% of cost of erection of blast freezer subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh per vessel.

Inclusion of Tobacco in the "Extreme Focus Category"

526. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include tobacco in the "Extreme Focus Category" to encourage export of tobacco; and

(b) what are the steps being taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of F.C.V. Tobacco

527. DR. YELAMANCHILI SHIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total purchase of F.C.V. tobacco during the year;

(b) what is the unit value realisation thereof; and

(c) what are the corresponding figures of last year and year before?